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Dear Mr. Corrada:

Thank you for your note of November 25 containing the open letter from Dr. Lincoln Rodon, Mr. hestor Carbonell and other distinguished Cuban-Americans asking for nullification of the "secret letters" signed by President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchew during the Cuban missile crisis since those Understandings interfere with the right of Cuban exiles to reconquer their homeland.

As you are aware, the US-USSR Understandings on Cuba are based primarily on an exchange of communications between President Kennedy and Soviet Chairman Khrushchev in October and November, 1962 (particularly the letters of October 27 and 28), and on communications between the two governments in the fall of 1970 concerning Soviet naval activities in Cuba. Pursuant to these exchanges, the Soviets agreed in 1962 that "offensive weapons" would not again be introduced into Cuba. Although some material relating to the Understandings has not been released since it involves records of exchanges in diplomatic channels, the confidentiality of which has long been our established policy to protect, the essential Understandings are in the public record and are contained in materials declassified since 1962.

We share the hope for a free and independent Cuba and also look forward to the day when a free Cuba can once again take its place in the Inter-American community. There are legal statutes, however, which relate to the illegality of attempting to launch invasions from the United States against nations with which we are at peace (Neutrality Acts). These laws exist apart from the 1962 Understanding.

The Honorable

Deletes y Baltasar Corrada 6 Resident Commissioner, Puerto Rico,

House of Representatives.

Dr. Rodon and Mr. Carbonell can be assered however that the Resyan Administration continues to monitor Cuban actions closely. We strongly oppose Cuban involvement in subversion and terrorism in the Hemisphere as well as Cuba's adventurist policies in Africa and elsewhere. This Administration is committed to countering the Cuban threat.

If the signers of the open letter would like to discuss their ideas in greater detail, they should not hesitate to contact Mr. Myles Frechette, the Director of Cuban Affairs, at (202) 632-9272.

Sincerely,

of

Richard Fairbanks Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

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